(Figures in MU)

Category	1996-97		
	Target	Actual	% Achievement
Thermal	317000	316869	100.0
Nuclear	7950	9010	113.3
Hydel	75050	68609	91.4
Total	400000	394488	98.6

The shortfall in generation was mainly due to low hydro generation due to less availability of water in reservoirs.

(c) and (d) Amonst the measures being undertaken for increasing power generation are higher utilisation of installed capacity; reducing auxiliary power consumption; reducing the transmission and distribution losses; additional generation from the existing power stations through renovation and modernisation and life extension; expeditious completion of the ongoing projects; expediting fresh investment starts and construction of missing transmission lines in addition to system improvement.

[English]

TV Relay Centre in Gujarat

421. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan Relay Centre which was installed in 1995 at Dharangadhard in Gujarat remains inoperative due to lack of facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the above relay centre is likely to be equipped with power generating set and other basic facilities so as to keep it fully operative round the year ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Transmission from the Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Dharangadhra, which was commissioned on 5.12.1994, has been disrupted time and again due to power supply failure. A diesel generator set has since been procured for the LPT. The generator set, when installed at the LPT, would provide alternate power supply, in case of breakdown in normal power supply, for uninterrupted transmission.

Schemes for Export of Steel

422. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes chalked out for the export of steel during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the shortfall in the required production target would be met through assistance from Non-Government sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the programmes which have been undertaken relating to research and development in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The working Group on Iron & Steel Industry for the IX Five Year Plan has projected an export potential of 6 million tonnes of steel by 2001-2002 which is the terminal year of the IXth Plan.

The Working Group has projected a demand of 38.68 million tonnes of finished carbon steel, including export potential of 6 million tonnes, by 2001-02 against which projected availability is 38.01 million tonnes. The shortfall is expected to be met through imports.

(d) Besides in-house R&D units of steel producers, Steel Research in the country is also being pursued at academic institutions, National Laboratories etc.

Construction of Link Roads in Assam with World Bank Assistance

423. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam have drawn up any plan for the development of infrastructure in the State with the World Bank's assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the link roads are also likely to be constructed in all villages in a phased manner under the proposed plan in the State;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Setting up of Steel Industry in Bihar

424. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the government to set up steel industry in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Union Government do not propose to set up steel plant in Bihar.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Telephone Bill Arrear

425. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of telephone bill arrear pending for payment by the State Government as on June 30, 1997, State-wise;

(b) the amount due to different Central Ministries including the offices of different Ministers as on June 30, 1997, separately;

(c) whether a number of traders/private individuals are also not paying their arrears;

(d) if so, the details thereof as on June 30, 1997; and

(e) the steps taken to collect these arrears and to stop the misuse of Government telephones ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Phone Mechanics

426. SHRI DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees working under Maharashtra circle having qualified the phone-mechanic examination and getting training have not been posted so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Government are likely to appoint all such employees having qualified employees to the post of phone-mechanic ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. All are not yet posted as Phone Mechanic.

(b) More number of candidate are trained than the number of posts existing.

(c) The existing posts of Phone Mechanic have already been filled up and the creation of a new post is a continuous process based on workload. The additional posts of Phone Mechanic are sanctioned as and when justified. It would be ensured that these additional posts are created and filled up early.

[English]

Exploration of Minerals by NDMC

427. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited has drawn up plans for exploration of minerals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds have been sanctioned to the corporation to undertake the exploration work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has applied for prospecting licences for Gold and Diamond in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya